

the "personal application" and "public relationships," and thus reaches "The goal of eugenics," which is, of course, not merely the elimination of all the grosser hereditary defects of humanity but the raising of the general standard and eventually the production of an entirely finer type of human being. To this end it is suggested that we should "make it a rule that out of every ten dollars given to religious, philanthropic, and public purposes at least one dollar shall be set aside for race improvement."

The need for research is stressed, without any trace of the usual suggestion that we can do nothing until we know more. There is a useful appendix explaining the mechanism of heredity.

The tone of the book is invigorating in its optimism and its promise of great improvement if humanity will but use the knowledge it has in a reasonable manner.

URSULA GRANT DUFF.

The Family Face. A history of the Family, written by the family, according to the plan of JACQUIER. 1936.

The Nonesuch Press. Price 5s.

SIR FRANCIS GALTON advised every educated person to study his family pedigree and to make a record of facts of genetic as well as of social interest. When I became Secretary of the *Eugenics Society*, I was asked in one of the first letters I received whether the *Society* had devised any method by which such records could be kept. It appeared that nothing of the sort had been produced by the *Society*, but that various schedules and forms had been produced in other countries, notably America. All of these were, in various respects, unsatisfactory.

The upshot was that, with the assistance of Mr. Gun, Mr. Lidbetter and Professor Ruggles Gates, I produced the *Society's* green-backed schedule. This achieved, I set myself the task of filling in the document for my own family, and it was then borne home on me, for the first time, what an enormous task this involved. The schedule has since been successfully used by many Fellows and Members of the *Society*, but all have found that the task demanded of them was con-

siderably greater than they had anticipated.

For those who feel themselves unequal to the exertions demanded by the green-backed schedule, Madame Jacquier's attractive book will be found useful. "This book came to life," she writes in a prefatory note, "because the Bible as a large book with a fly-leaf is almost extinct. Our houses are almost too small to keep even the legacy of old letters we find in our parents' desk, or our time too short for us to go through them adequately. We burn them, and in the blue smoke, the irreplaceable perishes. The past flies up the chimney, for ever lost."

The book is of fixed size and, unlike the *Society's* schedule, does not admit of additional pages. Of each of our near relatives, questions are asked, the replies to which, taken together, throw their characters into a total perspective. At first sight, some of these questions appear frivolous; but on closer scrutiny, they are seen to be well designed to circumvent too monotonous a flow of those indiscriminating eulogies which follow from strict adherence to the dictum "*De mortuis nil nisi bonum.*"

Among the particulars asked of one's mother appear the following: Her upbringing and what she had to say about it; what she was taught and what she had to say about it; reports of her when young; her appearance and dress; how I see her most characteristically; her early love affairs; how she first met my father and what happened at the meeting; they lived . . . ; her tastes (in music, literature, pictures, the theatre, etc.); her favourite actor or singer; her favourite form of exercise; historical events at which she was present; her reactions and reflections on pacifism, psychoanalysis, birth-control, etc.; her favourite superlatives and adjectives; her favourite proverb, principle or platitude; her political opinions; her religious beliefs; the qualities she most admires in others; her attitude to the family; anecdotes; lastly, the writer is asked to record the characteristics which, in his opinion, he inherits from his mother. On close examination, these are found to be ingenious questions which give to the character a three-dimensional perspective. The

same can be said of the questions which the compiler is asked to record of his father, such as : his school reports and his reports of the school ; caps and colours ; prizes and punishments ; his most usual anecdotes ; the experiences that have affected him most ; the character he most resembles in fiction ; his reflections on the Government, foreigners, modern art, divorce ; my first recollections of him ; when I think of him, what do I hear him say ; other people's recollections of him. The compiler is asked to fill in particulars for himself. Among them are the following : first memories ; educated ; learnt ; honours and prizes ; my reverses ; the career I proposed for myself ; my career, occupation, or hobby ; people that have influenced me in my youth ; my religious beliefs and their evolution ; tastes and interests ; prejudices ; types of snobbishness—Blood-snob, Position-snob, Money - snob, Intellectual - snob, Majority- or Minority-snob ; family characteristics I would wish to pass on ; family characteristics I would wish to obliterate.

Interspersed throughout the book are well-chosen quotations from various authors, some of them strikingly appropriate. Gummed to the inside of the back page of the cover is an unsealed envelope marked " The family secret." The book has been beautifully produced by the Nonesuch Press on very attractive paper, and at the price, is very cheap. Madame Jacquier is to be congratulated upon an original and well-executed project.

C. P. BLACKER.

SOCIOLOGY

Himes, Norman E. (editor). *Economics, Sociology and the Modern World*. London, 1935. Humphrey Milford, Oxford University Press. Pp. xii + 327. Price 21s.

THIS is a volume of eighteen essays published in his honour by former students of Professor T. N. Carver, who retired in 1932 from the chair of political economy at Harvard. The subjects they cover fall into three categories,

agricultural economics, economic theory and history, and sociology, and in the third there are two essays of special interest to eugenicists. Writing on the causes of the declining birth-rate, Dr. Norman Himes summarizes in lucid fashion the quantitative data on the practice of contraception as the effective means of reducing fertility. His scrutiny of recent clinical and other evidence confirms, with the weight of his unique authority, the conclusion that it is the wide diffusion of contraceptive knowledge rather than any change in natural fecundity which is the chief immediate cause of " the Vital Revolution." Though other factors, especially economic ones, have certainly been at work, contraception is the catalytic agent which made them peculiarly effective.

The economic effects likely to flow from stationary or declining population are considered by Mr. A. B. Wolfe. He believes that the awkward changes in the supply of labour and in the demand for consumption goods could be met by well-planned adjustments designed to keep industrial activity at a high level. But he admits that unless the corporate interests adversely affected overcome their own fears, the outlook is not bright.

One other essay deserves mention because it is of interest to everyone who detests dogma in the social sciences. Mr. Wilfrid H. Crook illustrates the absurdity of " cultural compulsives " from the work of various people, happily including Marxian fatalists. Those who have followed the controversy between Westermarck and Briffault, aided and abetted by Calverton, in relation to marriage will regret that this essay is so short and its points so tersely made. One would gladly have given Mr. Crook the space occupied by some others whose horizons are obviously limited, but no doubt the editor of a *festchrift* with so wide a range to cover had trials enough in his task of producing it.

JOHN GILD.

Ellis, Havelock. *Questions of our Day*. London, 1936. John Lane. Pp. 313. Price 8s. 6d.

IN this his latest book Havelock Ellis has adopted the same method as that which he